

Black Film Festival



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Newark 1979

Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

June 20 & 27, July 5, 11, 18 & 25

Admission Free

Van Houten Library Theatre at

New Jersey Institute of Technology, 99 Summit St., Newark

Co-sponsors:

The Newark Museum • The Newark Public Library • N.J. Institute of Technology • Newark College-Rutgers University

20

JUNE

THE GREAT FORERUNNER: PAUL ROBESON

Guesting: Major Kenneth L. Gibson
Commentary: John Kasper, Director, International Museum of Photography
Paul Robeson, Jr., author, historian
Piano accompaniment: William Perry

Body and Soul, featuring Paul Robeson
57 mins./b&w/1924. International Museum of Photography.
Hart and Robinson shown film by famed pioneer black director Oscar Micheaux, possibly his finest. Paul Robeson, in his first film appearance, plays the dual role of gambler and preacher. Penetrating account of a black community in rural Georgia.

27

JUNE

FROM THESE ROOTS: BLACK HISTORY & FOLKWAYS

Commentary: Maurice M. Martinov, filmmaker

Georgia Sea Island Singers
12 mins./b&w/1974. Film Images.

Cut off by swamp and sea from the Georgia mainland, St. Simons Island was, until recent years, a haven for independent black communities with a language and life of their own. This film records some of the traditional religious activities and music of the Georgia Sea Island Singers.

St. Louis Blues
15 mins./b&w/1929. Kri Parker Films.

Bessie Smith gives full, eloquent power to W.C. Handy's classic song. The only known film featuring Bessie Smith.

I Shall Moulder Before I Shall Be Taken

58 mins./color/1973. EDC Distribution Center.
The Ojuka Tribes are descendants of West Africans who were captured and brought to Dutch Guiana (now Surinam) in South America as laborers for the Dutch plantation owners in the 1500s. The slaves rebelled and escaped into the jungle to establish a black tribal society in the New World, successfully resisting all attempts to recapture them. The Ojukas have continued to live free, preserving their ancient African culture.

Black Indians of New Orleans
33 mins./color/1978. CMI Kokoro Films International.

The Black Indian Tribes, or "Mardi Gras Indians" — descendants of American Indians and former African slaves of New Orleans — are featured: ritual practices, music, dance, costumes, folk art and social organization. Produced by Maurice M. Martinov.

5

(Thursday)

JULY

AFRICA: IN FOCUS

Commentary: Dr. James Mutantibiwa, History Dept., Rutgers University, Newark.

King's Harvest
85 mins./color/1977. New Line Cinema.

First full-length feature film from English-speaking Africa directed by filmmaker/actor Ossie Davis and a leading African playwright, Wole Soyinka. Political and religious struggle of the Yoruba people of Southern Nigeria dramatizes their life and culture.

11

JULY

CONTEMPORARY BLACK FILMMAKERS

Commentary: Roy Campanella, Jr., filmmaker
Oliver Franklin, filmmaker

Pass/Fail
36 mins./color/1976-77. Pass/Fail Productions.

Drama about the struggle of a black filmmaker to raise funds for a socially relevant documentary.

Portrait of a Black College
60 mins./color/1979. Oliver Franklin.

A documentary of Lincoln University in Chester County, Pa. — its founding in 1854, growth, and influence in the years since. The role of a black institution in the era of integration. The tribute of an alumnus to his University.

18

JULY

BLACK DRAMA ON FILM

Commentary: Amin Baraka, author

The Dutchman
55 mins./b&w/1967. Kri Parker Films.

Film version of Ingeri Amin Baraka's award-winning play. A white woman encounters a black man on a subway. An electrifying drama, centering on racial hatred. Because of the explicit nature of the film, it is recommended for an ADULT AUDIENCE ONLY.

25

JULY

BLACK LEADERS/BLACK IDEAS

Commentary: Gil Noble, commentator, film producer

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: An Amazing Grace
62 mins./color-b&w/1978. McGraw-Hill Films; Essex-Hudson Film Center.

Powerful and realistic portrait of Dr. King, produced by Gil Noble, in which Dr. King narrates his own story. Dr. King's stirring and evocative speeches provide a first-hand account of the "peaceful warrior" who proclaimed that violence was not the answer.

El-Haji Malik El-Shebaz: Malcolm X
58 mins./b&w/1978. McGraw-Hill Films.

An Emmy-Award-winning film chronicle of Malcolm X — produced, written and narrated by Gil Noble. This presentation focuses on the qualities and characteristics that led to Malcolm X's rise as a leader and outstanding spokesman of the Black American movement.

NOTE: Theatre doors open at 6:30 p.m.; performances begin at 7:30 p.m., each evening. Because of fire protection regulations, there will be no standing at performances; once the theatre is filled to capacity, there will be no further admissions.